



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims would replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A recording and reproducing apparatus that is operable according to first, second, third, and fourth operating modes, the apparatus comprising:

means for recording a content supplied from an external device;
means for reproducing the content, the reproducing means buffering
content data before reproduction;
means for detecting that a sufficient amount of the content data is buffered
when a recording command is issued during reproduction;
means for enabling said recording means when said detecting means
detects that the sufficient amount of the content data is buffered;
means for setting as an operation mode one of the first, second, third, or
fourth operation modes; and
means for controlling said recording means and said reproducing means
in accordance with the operation mode when said detecting means
detects that the sufficient amount of the content data is not
buffered,

wherein:

in the first mode reproduction is continued if the
apparatus is connected to the external
apparatus during reproduction,

in the second mode reproduction is stopped and
recording is started if the apparatus is
connected to the external apparatus during
reproduction,

in the third mode recording is started after
reproduction is completed if the apparatus is
connected to the external apparatus during
reproduction, and
in the fourth mode reproduction is interrupted and
recording is started if the apparatus is
connected to the external apparatus during
reproduction and after recording is completed,
the interrupted reproduction is restarted.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said setting means comprises an interface device for manually presetting the operation mode.

Claims 16-29 (Canceled).

30. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a recording and reproducing apparatus comprising means for recording a content supplied from an external device and means for reproducing the content, the reproducing means buffering content data before reproduction, the method comprising:

detecting that a sufficient amount of the content data is buffered when a
recording command is issued during reproduction;
enabling said recording means when said detecting means detects that
the sufficient amount of the content data is buffered;
setting an operation mode; and
controlling said recording means and said reproducing means in
accordance with the operation mode when it is detected that the
sufficient amount of the content data is not buffered,

wherein the operation mode includes a first mode, a second mode, a third mode, and a fourth mode, and
wherein in the first mode reproduction is continued if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction,
in the second mode reproduction is stopped and recording is started if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction,
in the third mode recording is started after reproduction is completed if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction, and
in the fourth mode reproduction is interrupted and recording is started if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction and after recording is completed, the interrupted reproduction is restarted.

Claims 31-34 (Canceled).